

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 03103 031527Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /057 W

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R 031230Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9917

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ML

SUBJECT: MALIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERIOR ON TOUR

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERIOR AFFAIRS, MAJOR SEKOU LY, TOURED MALI'S SEVEN REGIONS JUNE 7-21, HOLDING TOWN MEETINGS WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND WORKING SESSIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION IN EACH REGIONAL CAPITAL. LY TOOK WITH HIM MOST OF HIS CABINET SO AS TO BE ABLE TO REVIEW PROBLEMS FIRST-HAND. THE PURPOSE OF TOUR, LY TOLD "L'ESSOR" REPORTERS IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JUNE 28, WAS TO RE-ESTABLISH HIERARCHY, RENEW REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION, AND REVIVE RESPECT FOR CITIZENS' RIGHTS.

2. AN OBSERVER OF LY'S VISIT TO SEGOU REPORTED THAT THE PUBLIC MEETING WAS WIDE-OPEN WITH THE POPULACE BEING URGED TO PRESENT ANY PROBLEM. LY IMMEDIATELY ADDRESSED SEVERAL OF THE ISSUES RAISED. FOR EXAMPLE, A COMPLAINT OF FOOD SCARCITY RESULTED IN A TELEPHONE
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CALL TO BAMA KO ARRANGING IMMEDIATE TOKEN SHIPMENT OF GRAIN. PEOPLE DID NOT HESITATE TO AIR "GRIPEs" THAT IMPLICATED THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER REGIONAL AUTHORITIES SITTING IN ON THE SESSION.

3. COMMENT: LY'S VISIT FOLLOWS THE NOMINATION OF NEW REGIONAL GOVERNORS IN THE FIRST (KAYES) (MAJOR ZOUMANA TRAORE VICE MAJOR IBRAHIMA MAIGA) AND THE NEW SIXTH REGIONS (TIMBUKTU) (CAPTAIN MOUSSA

KEITA). (THE REGION WITH ITS CAPITAL AT GAO IS DESIGNATED THE SEVENTH NOW.) CAPTAIN OUMAR COULIBABLY SUCCEEDS LY AS GOVERNOR (FORMERLY MAYOR) OF THE BAMAKO NATIONAL DISTRICT. LY HAS QUICKLY SET UP A FULLY-STAFFED CABINET OF COMPETENT YOUNG CIVIL SERVANTS, INCLUDING TWO OF THE EMBASSY'S MOST USEFUL CONTACTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

4. LY, APPARENTLY RECOVERED FROM RECENT SERIOUS ILLNESS, HAS TAKEN ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NEWLY CREATED INTERIOR SECRETARIAT WITH REAL VIGOR. THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT, TO THE EXTENT THAT IT FUNCTIONED AT ALL, PREVIOUSLY OPERATED AT THE PERSONAL WHIM OF FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA. NOW, FOR FIRST TIME IN YEARS, THERE APPEARS TO BE CENTRAL AND RATIONALIZED CONTROL OF REGIONAL AFFAIRS. THE APPARENT OPENNESS OF THE CONSULATIVE PROCESS, AS LY DEALT WITH THE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF PRESIDENT TRAORE'S DETERMINATION TO MOVE THE MALIAN GOVERNMENT TOWARD A POLITICAL FUTURE THROUGH OPEN DIALOGUE WITH THE MALIAN PEOPLE.
BYRNE

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